

# Lynn M. Voskuil

---

Associate Professor | Department of English  
University of Houston | Houston, TX 77204  
713.743.2972 | lvoskuil@uh.edu

---

## Education

- PhD, University of Chicago, December 1994
  - MA, University of Chicago, June 1983
  - BA, Covenant College, *summa cum laude*, May 1981
- 

## Academic and Administrative Positions

- University of Houston, Associate Professor of English, 2004-
    - Founding Member, Empire Studies Collective
    - Faculty Affiliate, Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, 2004-
    - Director of Graduate Studies, Department of English, 2003-06
  - University of Houston, Assistant Professor of English
    - Faculty Affiliate, Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, 1997-2004
  - University of Cincinnati, Visiting Assistant Professor of English
    - Faculty Affiliate, Women's Studies Program, 1995-97
  - University of Chicago, Lecturer, Department of English, 1993-95
  - University of Chicago, Co-Director, Graduate Student Teachers Colloquium, 1992-94
  - University of Chicago, Teaching Intern, Department of English, 1991-93
  - Illinois Institute of Technology, Director, Office of Research Administration, 1985-90
- 

## Honors, Fellowships, Awards

- National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, 2016-17
- National Endowment for the Humanities Award for Faculty, 2016-17 (declined)
- Martha Gano Houston Research Professorship, UH, 2014-2016
- Dean's Research Outreach Grant, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, UH, 2014
- Martha Gano Houston colloquium award, UH, for Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies (INCS) annual conference, 2014
- QEP Grant, collaborative multi-faculty awards, UH, 2011, 2013
- Martha Gano Houston colloquium award for India Studies Conference, UH, 2012
- QEP Grant, single faculty award, UH, 2012
- Undergraduate Research Mentoring Award, UH, 2012
- FDIP Grants, UH, 2008, 2011, 2013
- QEP Grant, collaborative multi-college, multi-semester award, UH, 2009
- Martha Gano Houston colloquium award for Empire Studies Symposium, UH, 2009
- Women's Studies Faculty Research Grant, UH, 2008
- Houston Endowment Research Grants, UH, 2003, 2006, 2008, 2011, 2012, 2015
- Small Grant, UH, 2001
- National Endowment for the Humanities, Summer Stipend, 2000
- Graduate English Society Outstanding Professor Award, UH, 1999
- Limited-Grant-in-Aid, UH, 1999
- Research Initiation Grant, UH, 1998
- University of Cincinnati, Charles H. Taft Summer Research Grant, 1996
- University of Chicago, Graduate Fellowship, 1982-85

## Publications

- Books*
- Voskuil, Lynn. *Acting Naturally: Victorian Theatricality and Authenticity*. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2004 | *Choice* Outstanding Academic Title, 2005
- Voskuil, Lynn, editor. *Nineteenth-Century Energies: Literature, Technology, Culture*. London: Routledge, forthcoming 2016

### *Essays and Book Chapters*

*Clustered publication dates indicate delayed publication schedule.*

- “Victorian Orchids and the Forms of Ecological Society.” *Strange Science: Investigating the Limits of Knowledge in the Victorian Age*. Ed. Shalyn Claggett and Lara Karpenko. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, forthcoming 2016. 7,770 words.
- “Sotherton and the Geography of Empire: The Landscapes of *Mansfield Park*.” *Studies in Romanticism* 53:4 (Winter 2014): 591-615.
- “Nineteenth-Century Energies.” *Nineteenth-Century Contexts* 36.5 (2014): 389-403.
- “*Mansfield Park* and the Pedagogy of Geography.” *Approaches to Teaching “Mansfield Park.”* New York: Modern Language Association, 2014. 208-215.
- “Horticulture, Botany, and the Novel.” *Encyclopedia of Victorian Literature*. Ed. Dino Felluga, Pamela Gilbert, and Linda K. Hughes. Oxford: Blackwell, 2015. 3,500 words.
- “Horticulture and the Novel.” *The Oxford Handbook of the Victorian Novel*. Ed. Lisa Rodensky. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013. 549-68.
- “George Eliot Among Her Contemporaries: A Life Apart.” *The Blackwell Companion to George Eliot*. Ed. Amanda Anderson and Harry Shaw. Oxford: Blackwell, 2013. 233-46.
- “Oscar Wilde and Performativity.” *Oscar Wilde in Context*. Ed. Kerry Powell and Peter Raby. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2013. 356-64.
- “George Eliot and Theatre.” *George Eliot in Context*. Ed. Margaret Harris. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2013. 279-86.
- “*Camellia sinensis*, Robert Fortune, and the Nineteenth-Century Global Imagination.” *Nineteenth-Century Contexts* 34.1 (2012): 5-18.
- “Feeling Public: Sensation Theatre, Commodity Culture, and the Victorian Public Sphere.” *Victorian Studies* 44 (Winter 2002): 245-74.
- “Acting Like a Woman” (review essay). *Journal of British Studies* 40.4 (October 2001): 606-17.
- “Acts of Madness: Lady Audley and the Meanings of Victorian Femininity.” *Feminist Studies* 27 (Fall 2001): 611-39.
- “Acting Naturally: Brontë, Lewes, and the Problem of Gender Performance.” *ELH: A Journal of English Literary History* 62 (1995): 409-42.

### *Reviews*

- Sarah Dewis, *The Londons and the Gardening Press: A Victorian Cultural Industry*. Burlington, VT: Ashgate, 2014 | Micheline Nilsen, *The Working Man’s Green Space: Allotment Gardens in England, France, and Germany, 1870-1919*. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2014 | Margaret Willes, *The Gardens of the English Working Class*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2014. Forthcoming, *Victorian Studies*.
- David Kurnick, *Empty Houses: Theatrical Failure and the Novel*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2012. *Nineteenth-Century Contexts* 36.4 (2014): 385-87.
- Tatiana Holway, *The Flower of Empire: An Amazonian Water Lily, the Quest to Make it Bloom, and the World it Created*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. *Victorians Institute Review* 41 (2013): 239-43.

- 
- Paul A. Elliott, Charles Watkins, and Stephen Daniels, *The British Arboretum: Trees, Science, and Culture in the Nineteenth Century*. London: Pickering and Chatto, 2011. *Victorian Studies* 56.1 (Autumn 2013): 148-50.
  - Cheryl A. Wilson, *Literature and Dance in Nineteenth-Century Britain: Jane Austen to the New Woman*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009. *Romanticism and Victorianism on the Net* No. 56 (November 2009), n. pag.
  - Angelia Poon, *Enacting Englishness in the Victorian Period: Colonialism and the Politics of Performance*. Burlington, VT: Ashgate, 2008. *Victorian Studies* 51.3 (Spring 2009): 563-64.
  - Elaine Freedgood, *The Ideas in Things: Fugitive Meaning in the Victorian Novel*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2006. *Journal of British Studies* 47 (October 2008): 964-66.
  - A.A. Markley, *Stateliest Measure: Tennyson and the Literature of Greece and Rome*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2004. *Classical and Modern Literature* 26.1 (2006): 187-90.
  - Mary Poovey, *Making a Social Body: British Cultural Formation, 1830-1864*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1995, *Modern Philology* 95 (1998): 421-29.
  - Joseph Childers, *Novel Possibilities: Fiction and the Formation of Early Victorian Culture*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1995. *Modern Philology* 95 (1998): 421-29.

---

## Work in Progress

- Book Manuscript: "Horticulture and Imperialism: The Garden Spaces of the British Empire, 1789-1914"  

An interdisciplinary book manuscript focusing on Victorian Britain's fascination with tropical plants and horticulture, analyzed in the historical context of Britain's imperialist project. Supported by a National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship.
- Article: "On the Invention of the Wardian Case, 1832." Solicited for *BRANCH: Britain, Representation, Nineteenth-Century History* (peer-reviewed, online source). Ed. Dino Felluga.
- Article: "Botanical Form and Global Scale in Hooker's Himalayas." Solicited for *Ecological Form: System and Aesthetics in the Age of Empire*. Ed. Nathan K. Hensley and Philip Steer. Volume requested by Fordham University Press.

---

## Conferences, Symposia, Lectures (selected)

- "The Social Lives of Victorian Plants," North American Victorian Studies Association, North American Victorian Studies Association (NAVSA), 2016
- "Botanical Form, Imperial Space, and Victorian Economies of Scale," NAVSA, 2015
- "Wardian Cases, Traveling Plants, and the Emergence of Global Ecologies," Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies (INCS), 2015
- "Horticulture and Imperialism: The Garden Spaces of the British Empire," Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, February 2013
- "Form as Evidence: Darwin's Plants," NAVSA, 2013
- "Orchidaceous Sensations," INCS, 2013
- "What I Learned About Empire from *Neobuxbaumia Polylopha*," Plenary Paper, Global Modernities Conference, Rice University, May 2012.
- "Cornish Tropicality: Torrid Zones in the Scilly Isles," NAVSA, 2012
- "Illustrative Specimens: Nineteenth-Century Botanical Illustration and the Figure of Empire," INCS, 2012

- 
- “Dirt and Disciplinarity,” Plenary Lecture, Victorian Interdisciplinary Studies Association of the Western United States, October 2011
  - “Florimania; Or, What Happens When Plants Act Naturally,” NAVSA, 2011
  - “Torrid Zones and Tropical Nature: Nineteenth-Century Plant-Hunters and the Global Imagination,” INCS, 2011
  - “Bonsai, Giant Aloe, and the Dislocations of Horticultural Perspective,” NAVSA, 2010
  - “Gertrude Jekyll and the Invention of the English Cottage Garden,” British Women Writers Conference, 2010
  - “The Composted Archive; Or, How to do Things with Victorian Plants,” NAVSA, 2008
  - “Being George Eliot,” NAVSA, 2006
  - “Theater Histrionics; Or, Why Victorian Theater Matters,” Plenary Paper, Nineteenth-Century Theater Workshop, Purdue University, November 2006
  - “The Archived Performance,” Nineteenth-Century Studies: The Year in Review, Rice University, May 2005
  - “History as Theory?” “Disciplinary Flashpoints: A Conversation Between History and Literature,” A Working Conference jointly sponsored by Rice University and the University of Houston, April 2005
- 

## Service to the Discipline

- Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies:
    - President, 2018-2019
    - First Vice President, 2016-2017
    - Second Vice President, 2015-2016
    - Board Member, 2012-14
    - Director, 2014 annual conference in Houston, TX
  - National Endowment for the Humanities: Panelist for Summer Stipend and Fellowship Programs
  - Tenure reviewer for multiple universities
  - Manuscript reviewer, Ohio State University Press, Routledge, Broadview Press, *BRANCH: Britain, Representation, and Nineteenth-Century History*, *Journal of British Studies*, *Victorian Studies*, *Victorian Institutes Journal*, *Victorian Review*, *Journal of Classical and Modern Literature*, *Journal of Commonwealth Literature*, *RAVON: Romanticism and Victorianism on the Net*, *Tulsa Studies in Women’s Literature*
- 

## Program-Building and University Service

### *Department*

- Founding Faculty Advisor for *Glass Mountain*, the undergraduate literary journal, 2006-2014
  - Counseled students on all aspects of journal editing and production
  - Led students in founding, planning, and staging “Boldface: a conference for emerging writers,” the undergraduate summer conference sponsored by *Glass Mountain*, 2009-2014
  - Secured funding for journal production and distribution
  - Secured funding for summer conference (more than \$100,000)
  - Journal awarded the Associated Writing Programs National Program Directors Prize for Undergraduate Literary Magazines, 2013

- 
- Founding Member, Empire Studies Collective
    - Co-founded faculty collective with five English Department colleagues
    - Co-designed graduate certificate
    - Co-planned symposia
    - Mentored Empire Studies graduate students
    - Designed and constructed Empire Studies website
  - Director of Graduate Studies, 2003-06
    - Led faculty discussions for reform of graduate curriculum, 2003-06
    - Authored graduate sections of Department Self-Study, 2004
    - Determined graduate curriculum; administered PhD exams
    - Led policy discussions on issues that affect graduate study; initiated policy change as necessary
    - Counseled graduate students regarding their programs of study and academic pursuits
  - Standing Committees
    - Personnel Committee, 2012-2014, 2003-2005, 2015-16
    - Martha Gano Houstoun Research Committee, 2011-13
    - Chair, Graduate Committee, 2003-06
    - Chair, Graduate Admissions Subcommittee, 2003-06
    - Chair, Graduate Professional Development Subcommittee, 2005-06
    - Graduate Committee, 2002-2005
    - Chair, Graduate Policy Subcommittee, 2002-2003
    - Library Committee, 2000-2002, 2006-07
    - Planning Committee, 1998-2000; *Ex Officio*, 2003-06
    - Upper-Division Committee, 1997-99, 2014-15
  - Search Committees
    - Nineteenth-Century British Literature, 2015-16
    - South Asian Literatures in English, 2013-14
    - Rhetoric and Composition (senior position), 2005-06
    - Twentieth-Century British Literatures, 1999
    - Victorian poetry, 1997-98
  - Other Contributions
    - Department Secretary, 2012-13
    - Job Placement Coordinator for PhD students, 2005-06
    - Organizer of first Faculty Research Colloquium, University of Houston, Department of English, October 2000
    - Panel Member, “Imagining a New Curriculum,” Graduate Retreat, 1999
    - Guest Speaker, English 6301, “College Teaching of English Literature,” 1999
    - Guest Speaker, GES Professional Development Series, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2005, 2006

### *University*

- CLASS Dean Search Committee (provost appointed), 2016
- Committee on Academic Centers and Institutes (provost appointed), 2015-
- Grievance Policy Taskforce (provost appointed), 2015-
- University Grievance Committee (university-level elected committee), 2011-2014, 2014-2017
- Dissertation Completion Fellowship Committee, 2012
- Faculty Development Initiative Program (FDIP), Proposal Evaluator, 2012
- CLASS Graduate Affairs Committee, 2003-06

- CLASS Undergraduate Scholarship Committee, 2003
- Women's Studies Program, Steering Committee, 2003-04
- Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Reader for Fellowship Competitions, 2003, 2005
- Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Judge for Essay Contest, 1999, 2000, 2007, 2010
- Fulbright Evaluation Committee, 1999, 2000

---

## Teaching and Intellectual Supervision

### *University of Houston*

#### Undergraduate Courses

ENGL 2304: English Literature Since 1798  
 ENGL 2316: Literature and Culture  
 ENGL 3301: Introduction to Literary Studies  
 ENGL 3316: Literature of the Victorian Age  
 ENGL 3318: British Novel after 1832  
 ENGL 3362: Women in Literature

#### Graduate Courses

ENGL 6301: College Teaching of Language and Literature  
 ENGL 7325: The British Empire  
 ENGL 7365: Nineteenth-Century Preseminar  
 ENGL 7396: Postcolonial Ecocritique  
 ENGL 7398: The Victorian Social Problem Novel  
 ENGL 8360: Nineteenth-Century British Novel  
 ENGL 8361: Victorian Poetry  
 ENGL 8362: Victorian Cultural Criticism  
 ENGL 8386: Topics in Postcolonial Studies  
 ENGL 8391: Dissertation Prospectus Workshop  
 ENGL 8393: Research Colloquium  
 WOST 6301: Feminist Theory and Methodology

### *University of Cincinnati*

Honors Writing (lower-division seminar)  
 Survey of English Literature II  
 The Age of Dickens  
 The Age of Hardy  
 The 1860s  
 Social Ills, Novel Cures  
 Victorian Studies / Cultural Studies (graduate seminar)

### *University of Chicago*

Form/Problem/Event (humanities core course)  
 Advanced Academic and Professional Writing  
 The Victorian Period  
 The Nation's Stage: Britain and its Theatre (upper-division seminar)

Director of fifteen PhD dissertations and undergraduate honors theses at UH. Reader for an additional twenty dissertations and theses.